

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

I. Restriction Requirement / Election of Species

Applicants' election of claims 7-16 is confirmed. Claims 1-6 have been placed in withdrawn status.

Applicants' election of the species of SEQ ID NO: 1 and BMP-7 are confirmed. The claims have not been amended to reflect the species election.

II. Oath or Declaration

A new Oath or Declaration is provided, herewith.

III. Trademarks and Typographical Errors

Applicants request that objections relating to the format of certain trademarks and to typographical errors be held in abeyance until such time as allowable subject matter is indicated.

IV. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-6 have been placed in withdrawn status.

Claims 7 has been amended to include language from claim 11.

Claim 12 has been amended to include language from claim 16.

Claims 11 and 16 have been canceled.

V. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 11 was rejected as lacking antecedent basis for the language "said epitope region."

The rejection is presumably obviated by the cancellation of claim 11 and amendment to claim 7.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

VI. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-16 were rejected as being unpatentable in view of WO 02/077187 in view of allegedly admitted prior art found in the specification. WO 02/077187 describes a method for making proteins with reduced immunogenicity, while the other reference provide generalized teachings about BMP proteins, CD4+ helper cells, and the like.

The rejection is traversed because none of the cited references, nor any combination of the references, teaches or suggests modifying a protein to neutralize a T-cell epitope selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8, as currently claimed. This requirement, which is recited in all the pending independent claims, and therefore required by all the claims, is only described in the present application, and cannot be predicted in advance based on any combination of the cited references. For at least this reason, the present claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Conclusion

Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 846-7595. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this submission and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-1048.

Respectfully submitted,

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